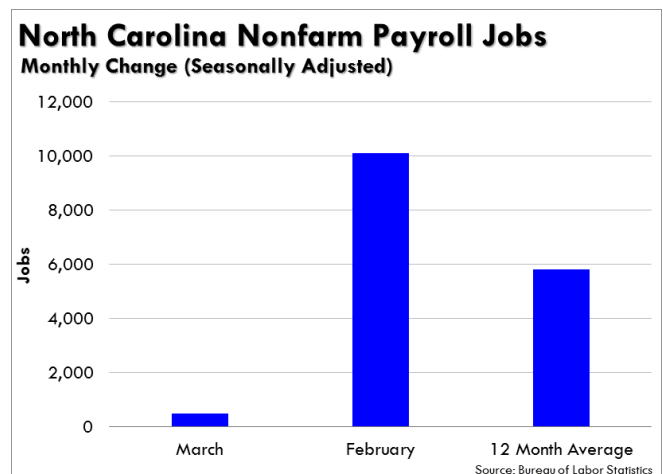
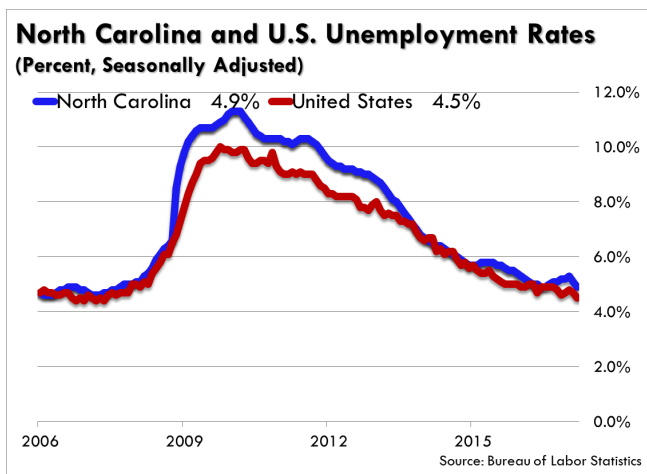


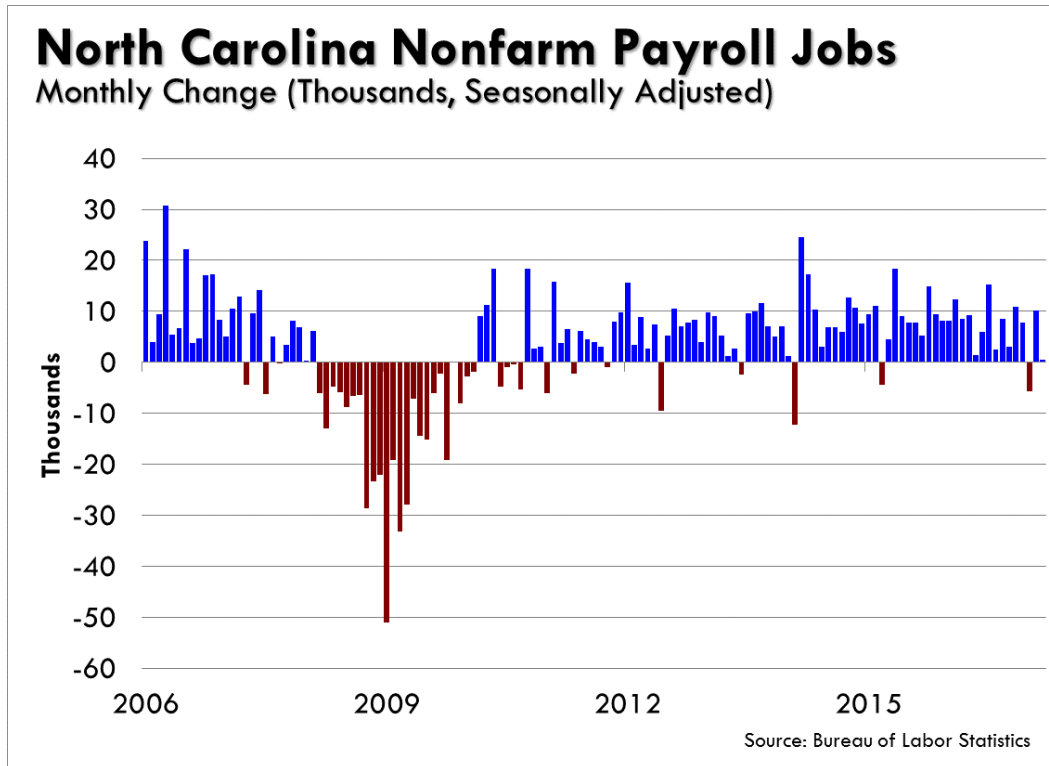


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **North Carolina added 500 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.9 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, North Carolina added 69,700 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 5.1 percent.
- **In March, North Carolina's private sector lost 4,400 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 62,400 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed North Carolinians fell by 8,149 in March**, and over the past year 111,111 North Carolinians found jobs.
- North Carolina's **labor force participation rate increased to 62.2 percent** from 62.1 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.6 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





North Carolina Payroll Employment

North Carolina added 500 jobs, or 0.01 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, North Carolina added 10,100 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in North Carolina increased by 69,700, or 1.61 percent. North Carolina nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 11 of the past 12 months.

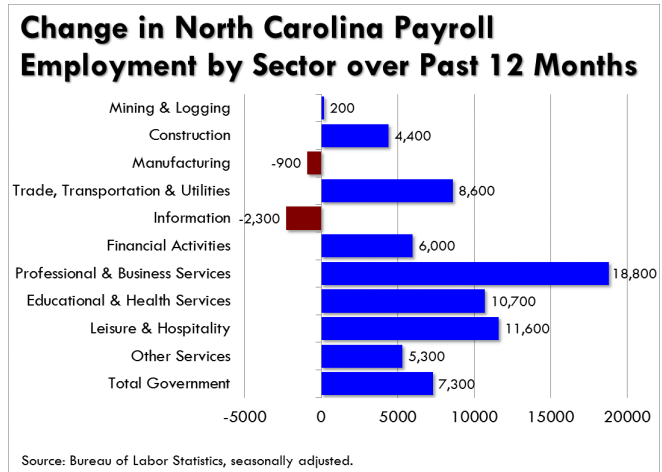
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. North Carolina ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, North Carolina's private-sector lost 4,400 jobs, or 0.12 percent. The private-sector in North Carolina added 9,200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in North Carolina increased by 62,400, or 1.74 percent. North Carolina private-sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. North Carolina ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Total Government (+4,900) and Manufacturing (+2,600). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-3,700) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-3,000).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Professional & Business Services (+18,800) and Leisure & Hospitality (+11,600). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Information (-2,300) and Manufacturing (-900).



North Carolina Labor Force Statistics

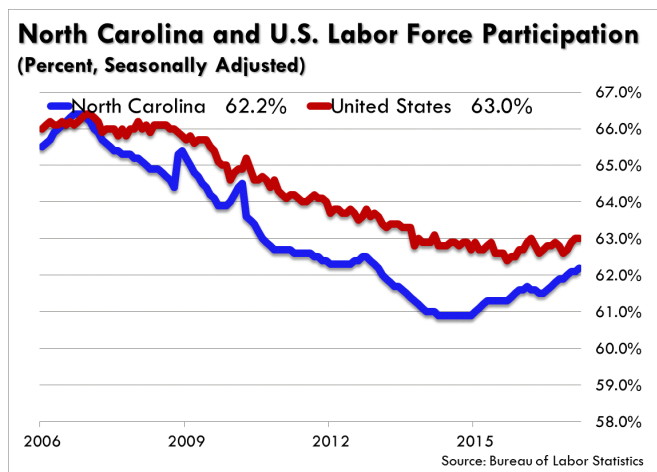
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in North Carolina rose to 62.2 percent in March from 62.1 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 have a higher labor force participation rate than North Carolina. The labor force participation rate in North Carolina is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina was 65.7 percent in April 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.0 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 60.9 percent in December 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in North Carolina. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the North Carolina civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 59.1 percent in March from 59.0 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 34 have higher employment-to-



population ratios than North Carolina. The employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina is 0.6 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina was 62.7 percent in April 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in North Carolina occurred in December 1989 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent in September 2011. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in October 2011 when the employment-to-population ratio was 56.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

